

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 632

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend First Lieutenant  
Jonathan Lessmann, United States Army, for his  
meritorious military service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and Nation, thousands of our citizens continue the time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army today; and

WHEREAS, the members of the United States Army selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, one such brave and dedicated Tennessean is First Lieutenant Jonathan Lessmann, who has bravely served three tours of duty in the Middle East to combat terrorism and ensure our freedom; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Lieutenant Lessmann will be deployed to Afghanistan on June 26, 2009, for his fourth tour of duty to protect and preserve the freedoms and principles we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, following in his family's noble tradition of military service, Lieutenant Lessmann's father is a 100-percent disabled Vietnam War veteran who retired after an exemplary twenty years of military service; his mother is also a Vietnam era veteran, and his brother is career Army, presently serving in Saudi Arabia; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Lessmann is a graduate of Gallatin High School in Gallatin, Tennessee, and Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia; after having obtained the enlisted rank of Sergeant, he attended Officer Candidate School in Ft. Benning, Georgia, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in August of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Lessmann is assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, 2-1 IN BN, Headquarter and Headquarter Company, as an Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, he served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and he was also called upon to serve with the 3rd Armored Cavalry in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery in the line of fire and his dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Lieutenant Lessmann to the full extent of our ability, as he has made and will continue to make untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we offer our deepest gratitude to First Lieutenant Jonathan Lessmann, United States Army, for his valiant service during three tours of duty in the Middle East, and on the eve of his fourth deployment on July 26, 2009, we salute his unswerving commitment to our Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.